

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1921.

ARMS CONFERENCE DRAWS EYES OF ALL THE WORLD
Washington Filling Fast With Leading Foreign Statesmen

Armistice Day Marks Opening of Momentous Gathering of Keenest Minds From All Quarters of the Globe Called by President Harding to Aid Permanent Peace—Pacific Question to Get First Consideration Because of Its Menace—Thumbnail Sketches of Leading Delegates—Meetings in D.A.R. and Pan-American Buildings

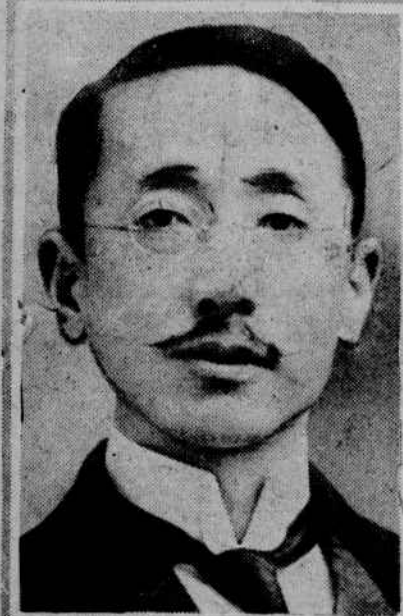
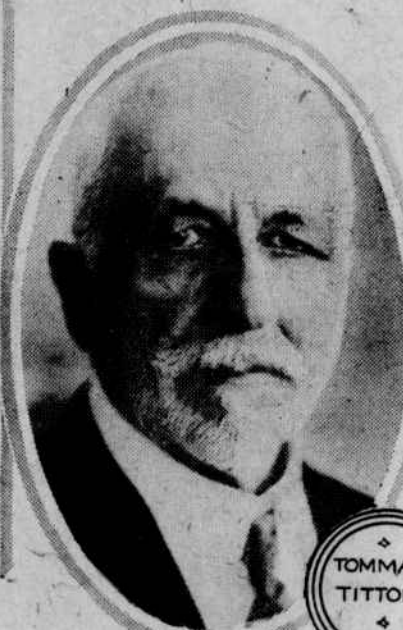
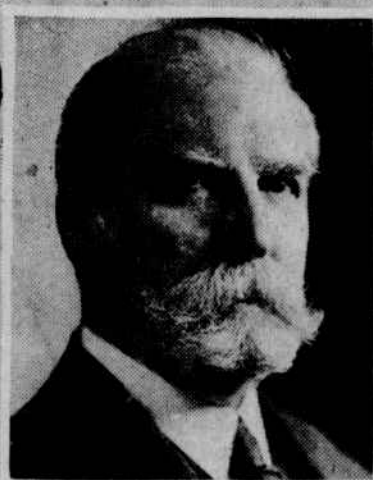
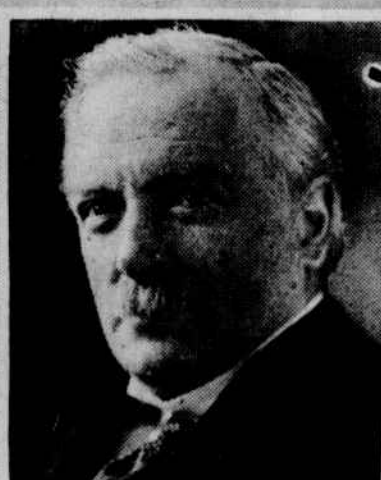
PRESIDENT HARDING'S CALL

The President, in view of the far-reaching importance of the question of limitation of armament, has approached with informal but definite inquiries the group of Powers heretofore known as the Principal Allied and Associated Powers, that is, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan, to ascertain whether it would be agreeable to them to take part in a conference on this subject, to be held in Washington at a time to be mutually agreed upon. If the proposal is found to be acceptable, formal invitations for such a conference will be issued.

PRESIDENT
HARDING

of limitation of armament has a close relation to Pacific and Far Eastern problems, and the President has suggested that the Powers especially interested in these problems should undertake in connection with this conference the consideration of all matters bearing upon their solution with a view to reaching a common understanding with respect to principles and policies in the Far East. This has been communicated to the Powers concerned, and China has also been invited to take part in the discussion relating to Far Eastern problems.

Washington, D. C., July 10, 1921.

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New York Herald Bureau,
Washington, D. C., Oct. 29.

IMMENSE as was the interest taken by the world in the congresses of Berlin and Vienna, where the diplomats and Prime Ministers of the great Powers of the world sat down to carve the world to suit themselves or their royal masters, this interest fades beside that with which the world now views Washington as the opening of the conference of limiting armaments approaches. The day of the opening is November 11, anniversary of Armistice Day, when the greatest war in the history of the world was ended.

Now not the rulers and the leading men of each nation involved, but the peoples of every civilized land, will watch anxiously the proceedings of the conference, for there is no citizen so small of repute but has at stake some vital interest. If it were a mere question of a reduction of taxes that would come up for discussion this would be of personal weight to every man in every country which now includes the civilized world. But things much higher in the scale of civilization are to be affected by what will be said and done in Washington, and the world waits breathlessly to learn how the important personages gathered in our national capital will focus their efforts to curtail war preparations and drive far away, if not entirely

out of sight and mind, the dread of future wars.

On Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, this war weary world heaved a sigh of relief and murmured that modern strife on an ascending scale such as had been witnessed in the preceding four years was not longer to be thought of. But the wish to do away with armaments could not accomplish that miracle, and thoughtful and far-seeing men saw that the future was fraught with every sort of danger.

Europe Left Almost Helpless

Economically and Spiritually. The countries of Europe were left after the war in almost a helpless state economically and spiritually. Civilization itself was on trial for its life. The balance of power had been disturbed by a huge vacuum, where Germany and Russia once had been, and into this vacuum world values whirled with resulting chaos.

In this disordered state of the world statesmen of other countries looked to America and they openly asserted that the help of this country was essential to the return of Europe to a normal state. The participation of the United States in the world war, coupled with the projection of our influence in the Far East, had, they stated, inescapably united the affairs of this nation with the affairs of other nations.

President Harding early in the summer by his issuance of a call for a conference on the question of limiting armaments revealed his appreciation of the poignancy of the situation and the willingness of America to meet and grapple with it. Both the President and Secretary of State Hughes

recognized the gravity of the situation and the magnitude of the problem, and they took what action they could looking to a solution of these world problems to remove recurring possibilities of war.

The call issued to the nations by President Harding last July brings together an assemblage of international statesmen the like of which never before met on American soil. The conference will mark the abandonment of our attitude of "splendid isolation," occasioned by nothing but a desire to perform a world service, and the United States will hereafter be distinguished as host of the greatest world conference which has ever been held.

Secretary of State Hughes, in the call to the Powers to join in the conference, did not lose the opportunity to make clear what the American people want. They want not only limitation of armaments but also a solution of the Pacific and Far Eastern problems. These two are combined in the mind of the people and in that of their spokesmen, because they know that they cannot have the first without the second.

Seeds of War Germinating

In Far Distant Asia

It is no diplomatic secret that the seeds of war are germinating in Asia at present. They expect, with a certain right that grows out of common sense, that our delegates to the conference will seek to kill these seeds of war, not only that armaments may be reduced in fact and not merely on paper but that there need be no fighting in the Pacific. Thus it was specified in the call to the conference that without some definite understanding

to be arrived at in the Pacific problems disarmament talk would amount to a merely academic discussion. It is acknowledged to be the aim of the conference to eliminate the danger now recognized as resting in the Pacific, to assure recognition of American rights in the Far East and to safeguard the "open door" policy in China.

President Harding's Address

To Be Delivered Nov. 12

The conference, then, promises to be a second peace conference, of greater importance than that which was held at Versailles. Upon its success is expected to depend the future well being of the world. It may be asked why, with so many interests involved other than those just mentioned, interests peculiarly European, America should have taken the lead in this world movement. Those who ask this question have no doubt forgotten that the first suggestion that America have the greatest navy in the world was broached in 1916. The plea for the largest navy had weight then, and it still survives. At any rate, we set the pace then for naval rivalry. It was fitting, therefore, that this country should call the conference to limit navy competition. As the United States is least vulnerable from a naval standpoint and is the most self-contained and powerful of the three naval Powers, it is prepared to excel them in candor, trust and generosity in the present conference. The programme of the first day will be perfunctory only, merely getting into working order, for this day, November 11, will

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